

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Michael Lehman

Appl. No: 10/840,119

Filed: May 6, 2004

For: Ant Resistant Dish and Tray

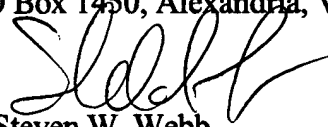
Examiner: Shaw, Elizabeth
Group Art Unit: 3644

Date December 9, 2005

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Signed:


Steven W. Webb

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
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Amendment

This is in response to the Office Action dated September 9, 2005.

Applicant hereby cancels Claims 1 through 3, which are currently pending.

Claim Rejections - Examiner's objections have been taken into account in the redrafted claims supplied below. Examiner raises the patent granted to Alnafissa (US Pat. No. 4,802,302) as the primary cause for rejection of Applicant's claims.

Alnafissa teaches a pet dish with a sticky substance acting as a moat around the food surface. Applicant wishes to point out that Alnafissa's ant barrier is exposed to

the elements and can be easily compromised by blowing dust and leaves. The present invention conceals the ant barrier under the rim of the bowl or food surface within the flange of the support, where it is safely away from the elements and where the sticky barrier is unaffected by blowing dust and leaves.

The present invention's tray has the additional feature of permitting the placement of unprotected food dishes on its upper surface while protecting them from ant incursion. This feature is not taught by Alnafissa.

In the Brief Summary of the Invention, as one of the "special treatments" for the specially-treated sticky substance used to trap ants, Applicant has proposed using a bug repellant. Applicant has learned that ants will quickly learn how to bridge a scent attractant sticky barrier, but will stay away from a repellant barrier. The sticky feature would then be a backup, to prevent other insects from crawling onto the food dish/tray.

Applicant has amended the present claims and provides them as Claims 4 through 6. The above arguments and revised features have been inserted into the new claims and Applicant believes the new claims to be in a state of allowance, and respectfully requests that said claims be allowed.